

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka has informed that it has laid the foundation stone to start the project of Kalsa-Bhanduri Nala for diverting water from Mahadayi basin to Malprabha sub basin for meeting the drinking water needs of twin cities of Hubli-Dharwad and other areas.

(c) An in-principle clearance from water availability angle to the said project was granted by the Ministry of Water Resources in April, 2002 which was subsequently kept in abeyance by the Ministry of September, 2002 and has not been revoked.

(d) and (e) The State of Goa in July, 2002 sent a request to the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources under the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 for constitution of water disputes tribunal for adjudication of the water dispute relating to Mahadayi river. In accordance with the provisions of the Section 4(1) of the said Act, the Ministry of Water Resources is of the opinion that water dispute contained in the aforesaid request cannot be settled by negotiation. The request has been examined in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and found to be not confirming to the provisions of the Act, therefore, the State of Goa has been requested to send a revised request on 21.11.2006.

Water rights on rivers to private consortia in Chhattisgarh

1478. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water rights of four rivers in Chhattisgarh have been handed over to private consortia;

(b) if so, to whom the water rights on river have been given;

(c) the number of rivers in the country which have been handed over to private consortia; and

(d) whether there is any Constitutional approval for handing over rights on rivers to private corporations?

[5 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that no water rights on any river in Chhattisgarh has been handed over to private consortia.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State Governments have not informed about handing over of any of the rivers in the country to private consortia.

(d) No, Sir.

Ground water level in Maharashtra

1479. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that level of ground water has gone very low in various States specially in Maharashtra and farmers find it difficult to get water for irrigation;

(b) if so, the details of States from where the Central Government has received reports in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to recharge the water level in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir, Government is aware that the ground water levels on certain parts of various States including Maharashtra have declined significantly.

(b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors ground water levels on regional scale through a network of 15,640 observation wells. Long term water level data are utilized by the Board in assessment of ground water resources and categorization of areas. As per the joint assessment of ground water resources carried out by the Central Ground Water Board and the States, out of 5723 replenishable ground water resource assessment units (block/mandal/taluka), 839 units are 'over-exploited' where stage of ground water development is more than 100% and significant decline in long term trend of water level has been observed in either pre-monsoon period or post-monsoon period or both. A total of 226 units are